

01/21/0

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Ging Hauw KHOE, Myint ZAW, Patricia Salini
Serial no. : PRASAD and Maree Therese EMETT
For : PHOTO-ASSISTED OXIDATION OF INORGANIC
Docket : SPECIES IN AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS
GRIHAC P28AUS

BOX PCT

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

By way of preliminary amendment, please amend the above identified application as set forth below.

In the Claims:

Please cancel original claims 1-9, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, in favor of new claims 10-17 as follows.

10. A method for oxidizing an inorganic species in an aqueous solution comprising the steps of:

- (i) supplying an oxidizable source of sulphur, and oxygen to the solution; and
- (ii) irradiating the solution with UV light such that the species is oxidized.

Sub 11 11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the oxidizable source of sulphur is SO_3^{2-} , $\text{SO}_2(\text{g})$, aqueous SO_2 , HSO_3^- , $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$, $\text{S}_4\text{O}_6^{2-}$.

12. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the inorganic species is present in the aqueous solution in trace quantities.

Sub 12 13. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the inorganic species is arsenic manganese, cerium, and/or iron.

14. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the wavelength of UV light is less than 300 nm.